

PLACES OF BUSINESS IN ELKTON

In 1837, the original town of Elkton was laid out by Mr. Harry H. Talbott and James Steel, Jr., in the southeast corner of the SE SE of Sec. 5 entered by Albert Jackson in 1836-12-8.

The Washington County History, 1879 says, "The first mill was owned by Greenville Rountree. It was a saw and grist mill combination and was operated by water power." On June 2, 1837, Greenville Rountree entered NW NW and NE NW Sec. 8, 3-4. Archie Creek flows across the corner of this tract, so this could have been the sight of his mill.

"The first blacksmith at Elkton was Linville Rountree." I was told by the Misses Luke that his shop was on his farm, a short distance south and east of the brick home formerly occupied by the Rountree and Thomas Dahncke families. He entered the NE SW & NW SE Sec. 9 on June 14, 1833, which corresponds to Miss Luke's description of his location.

The Kennedy Mill is written up elsewhere and is located on the map. Mrs. Rezba tells us that some rocks from the foundation are still visible.

Mr. Henry Schaeffer had a hotel just north of the mill. We are told that the stage coaches made regular stops here. They changed horses and passengers stayed over night in the hotel.

In the early days, Mr. Blum had a store just across the street from the hotel. This store was a general store. Many others kept store here after Mr. Blum left. Among those mentioned were Chas. Strohl, Mr. Thomas Dahncke, Sr., Ira Rountree, Mr. Mitchell, and the last to keep store there was Mr. George Rezba. While there he also kept the switch-board for a time. He lived in the upstairs of this building for many years and still owns it.

The I.O.O.F. Lodge built a Lodge Hall on the Mary Rountree acreage in 1873. When the Atlas was published in 1906, the building was then owned by the M.W.A. Lodge. There was a lodge hall upstairs and several different people have kept store in the downstairs part of the building. Mr. Austin Carr and Clyde Dahncke were two mentioned. Mr. Carr left Elkton in 1903.

The Plumhoff Store was a general store which he kept until about 1911 when he moved away. He also had the Post Office in his store when Elkton was on the Star Route. This route continued until 1905 when the first Rural Route came through Elkton. Mr. Plumhoff also had a long distance phone in his store before phones were in general use in the area. He had the switch-board in his store when local phones were installed about 1902. Miss Nora Carr assisted him many years.

There also was a Harness Shop on Block 5 Lot 1, east of the Plumhoff Store.

Mr. Hoeffstetter had a tavern on Block 3 Lot 1.

Mr. Ed Lachrup had a wagon shop and Mr. Michael Maier had a cooper shop in the same building on Block 1 Lot 1.

Mr. Schoppe had a blacksmith shop in Block 7 Lot A. It was probably in use about 85-90 years ago.

Mr. Austin Carr had a creamery west of his home for a time then later on Block 8, Lot 8 in the original part of Elkton.

Mr. Philip Reuter had a blacksmith shop on Block 2 Lot 1 in the original part of town. He died in 1883.

Mr. Dunkhorst had a general store on Block 1 Lot C. He also kept the Post Office in his store for a time. Later a Mr. Lindberg kept store in the same location.

Both Dr. Vernor and Dr. Jack had their office in a building on Block 8 Lot 5.

Miss Carrie Luke told us that Dr. George Thompson was in Elkton before either Dr. Trout or Dr. Vernor. The Washington County History reports "The physicians are Dr. R.E. Vernor and Dr. S.F. Wehr."

SHORT SKETCHES OF EARLY CITIZENS

From the Brink History of 1879, we learn in addition to what has already been related, that William Rountree, a native of Virginia, removed to Kentucky in the early period of the history of Kentucky. He was one of the adventurous followers of Daniel Boone.

From a Washington County Blue Book, we learn that he was a member of the First Board of Commissioners, being elected in 1819.

Greenville Rountree, a son of William Rountree was born on June 4, 1807 near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Along with his father he settled in Elkton in the early days. From FAMILY HISTORY OF ALEXANDER CHESNEY OF PLUM HILL, ILLINOIS written in 1897, we learn, "Lydia Ann Chesney was married in June 1827 to Greenville Rountree a very prominent and wealthy business man, he running a large farm a flouring mill and saw mill, also a large store in Elkton, Ill. They had born to them four boys and two girls."

Hon. James M. Rountree, third son of Greenville Rountree was born near Elkton on the 12th of October 1833. James learned the blacksmithing trade but the work did not suit his health, then he worked at the carpenter's trade about two years. At the age of 25 years, he made up his mind to study law. In Nashville he engaged in the milling business and merchandising for nine years until 1867 when he was admitted to practice law. He was very successful as a lawyer and in 1876 was elected States Attorney of Washington County and later served as State Representative.

Hon. Charles S. Luke, the son of David Luke of Elkton in the early days was also educated as a lawyer and elected as State Representative.

Mr. Harry Talbott was a name which often appeared in the early days of Elkton. He with James Steele platted Elkton in 1837. He was reported to be the first school teacher in Elkton, he also kept store in the William Rountree house. He was Clerk of the Circuit Court from 1850-1859. He seemed to deal in land in the early days in more than one township.

Dr. James J. Trout was born in Todd Co., Kentucky, Oct. 22, 1844. His family emigrated to Illinois in 1803 and settled on a farm west of Nashville until he was 25 years of age.

He began reading medicine in the office of Dr. Thomas Burgess of Nashville, then entered the Medical Dept. of the University of New York, from which he graduated in 1872. After serving as surgeon on board an emigrant ship for a year, he returned to Illinois. He began practicing medicine in Elkton where he remained for four years. He was active in building the Elkton Union Church. He later practiced in St. Libory about a year before moving to Nashville.

Dr. S.F. Wehr seemed to be the next doctor in Elkton, being mentioned in the History of 1879.

Dr. R.E. Vernor is also mentioned as being in Elkton in 1879. His family was a pioneer family in the Nashville community, having extensive land holdings southwest of town.

Dr. Vernor was a faithful and well loved family physician for many years. He is well remembered by many of the older people who lived in the Elkton area when he served there. He raised a family of professional men and left Elkton, moving to Neashville when his sons were ready for high school.

His oldest son Enloe, was born in Elkton Nov. 24, 1879. After graduating from Nashville High School in 1900, he went on to Washington University School of Law from which he graduated in 1904. The new country of the West seemed to call. He was in South Dakota, when the Rosebud Indian Reservation was opened at Bonesteel.

However he soon left for the South-west, buying a ticket for Galveston with stop over at Muskogee. He stopped at Muskogee, Okla. and never went on. He practiced law and was soon elected to be a County Judge, in which capacity he served for twenty-five years.

His second son, Roscoe was born in Elkton Feb. 24, 1881. He was graduated from the Nashville High School in 1902 and went on to graduate from the St. Louis University of Medicine in 1909. He returned to Nashville and entered the practice of medicine with his father. His practice was interrupted for a time while he served his country in World War. I.

Dr. Vernor's youngest son, Vilas chose the profession of law as a career. Following in the footsteps of his older brother he moved to Muskogee, Okla. after graduation, where he was a successful attorney. He is still living in that city.

Dr. Robert Jack succeeded Dr. Vernor as the family doctor in Elkton, coming about the turn of the century.

FROM AYERS POINT TO OAKDALE

William Ayers is known to have selected a site for his home on the high east bank of the Elkhorn Creek near where the Kaskaskia-Vincennes Trail crossed the creek. He built a log cabin in 1823 and went about the business of making a living. We also suppose that he must have prospered for in a few years he built a much larger and finer house for his family and turned his first house into a trading post. Mr. Ayers second house was a frame building constructed in the southern style. It was long and had a rambling appearance. It faced toward the road. It was two stories high with a porch on each level extending the length of the house. Mrs. T.E. McLean has a picture of this house which was acquired by their family in 1891. The J. Morrison family had lived in it before this.

We know that many people from South Carolina and other southeastern states settled in the surrounding country. We know that a post office was opened at Ayers Point in 1850, but was lost before 1867. Also a McClurkin family had built a flouring mill that was burned down in 1842 and never rebuilt.

Abstract of Title records show that on April 20, 1826, William Ayers entered W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE Sec. 14-3-4 from the U.S. Government.

His house, trading post and orchard were on the extreme southern part of this tract of land.

On Feb. 29, 1832, William Ayers & wife Tabitha deeded W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE Sec. 14-3-4 to Wiley Ayers giving a consideration of \$ 100.00.

On June 13, 1866 Wiley Ayers and wife Sally sold W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE Sec. 14-3-4 & ol to James B. McClurkin for \$ 5580.00

On Aug. 2, 1866 James B. McClurkin sold $\frac{3}{4}$ undivided interest in W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE Sec. 14-3-4 to John McAfee, David McClay and S.D. McClurkin for \$ 2700.00.

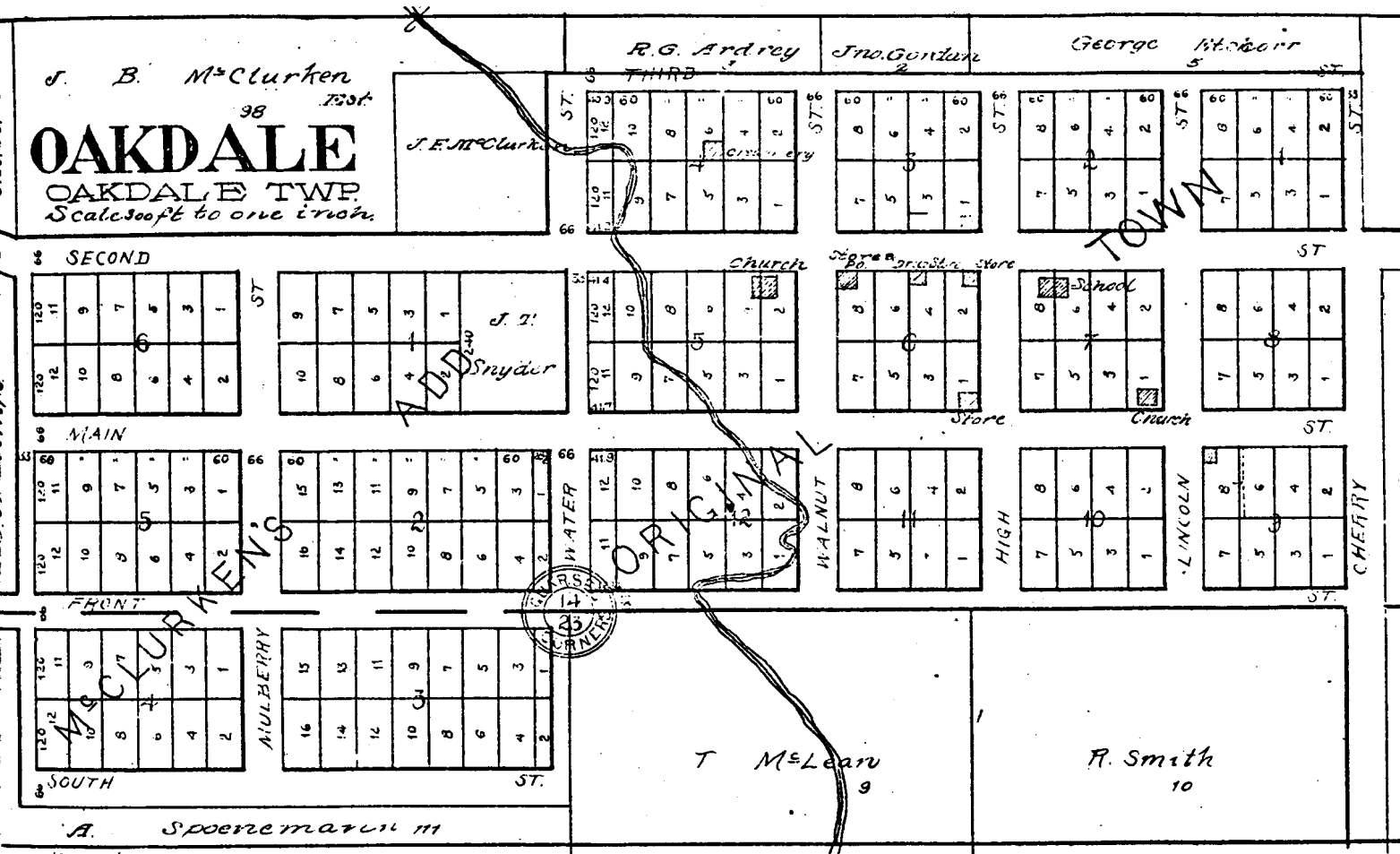
OAKDALE LAID OUT-NASHVILLE JOURNAL Jan. 24, 1867

"A new town has just been laid out at what was formerly called Ayers Point, about 10 miles southwest of Nashville. It is called Oakdale, a rather pleasant name to the ear, with a touch of romantic. It is laid out in 12 blocks, with 8 lots to each except a tier of 4 blocks with 12 lots each. It extends north and east of the old Ayers house taking in part of the orchard. A new mill costing from \$ 20,000 to \$ 25,000 to be owned by a stock company will be erected the coming summer. A new church building together with a suitable grade school, will also follow soon.

These we trust will form the nucleus for a thriving and enterprising town, affording business and educational facilities of great advantage to those who may desire to make Oakdale their home. Efforts are being made to have the old post office revived so that the new town may have a reasonable mail facility. We wish Oakdale a flourishing future in every respect."

PLAT OF TOWN OF OAKDALE, ILLINOIS-1867

Diagram of the town of Oakdale situated located & surveyed on the south part of the West half of the SE qr of Section 14 T 3 S, R 4 W, consisting of 6 full streets of 66 feet width each. Three half streets of 33 feet widths each, 12 blocks subdivided into 108 lots, 70 feet by 120 feet each. Except lots 11 & 12 in Block No. IV, No. V & No. XII, which are 40.9 successive to 42.24 feet by 120 feet as stated on the Diagram. Stones have been set at the NE corner of Block No. I, at the NW corner of Block No. IV at the SW corner of Block No. IX & at the $\frac{1}{4}$ Section corner between Sections 14 & 23.



I certify the within diagram of the town of Oakdale to be a true representation of an actual survey of the distances stated therein to be correct.

A. Stande, Surveyor W.C.

(Only the original town appeared in the records)

SOURCE-WASHINGTON CO.ATLAS - 1906'

We the undersigned do hereby acknowledge that the within plat of land as herein described is set apart for a town to be known as the town of Oakdale in Washington County, Illinois & that the within plat is a true survey of said town.

David McClay
James B. McClurkin
John McAfee
S.D. McClurkin

To be known as the firm of Jas. B. McClurkin & Co.
Given under my hand and seal this 15th day of January 1867.

J.P. Hibbard JP (Seal)

STATE OF ILLINOIS

SS

WASHINGTON COUNTY

We David McClay, James B. McClurkin, John McAfee and S.D. McClurkin by the firm name of James B. McClurkin & Co. acknowledge the within town plat as our free act and Deed. And the streets and alleys for the uses and purposes therein set forth and no other.

Acknowledged before me this 18th day of January A.D. 1867

J.P. Hibbard J.P. (Seal)

Recorder Feb. 2, 1867 J.N. Vernor Recorder

Recorded in the Records of Washington County, Illinois in
Vol. "Z" page 618

Witness my hand and seal this 18th day of January 1867.

"This is a true and correct copy of the original as the same is on file in the office of the Recorder of Washington County, Illinois."

CHURCHES OF ELKTON

From the HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY by Brink, 1879, I gathered some information not given by local residents, however not all in the History is correct nor do all parts of the history agree with all parts of the same book. Research on a few Abstract of Titles in the Elkton and Lively Grove area would likely clear up a seeming contradiction.

The History stated: "Revs. David Wells and William Rountree were ministers of the Baptist faith and they preached to the settlers prior to 1820. At that time an organization was formed at Rountree's."

"The records of the first organization are not now in the county but a second church of the same name, "Baptist Church of Christ at Elkton," was organized July 3rd, 1842, and the records of this church show that Elder William Rountree, John S. Brown and Nathan Arnett were received into the church by permission of the old Elkton Church. The ministers constituted the organizing council. There were thirty-one constituent members.

Elder Arnett was elected Pastor; William J. Cunningham, Chief Clerk; A. G. Jackson and Joseph Kinyon, Deacons. The last record of this church bears the date June 1st, 1867."

LIVELY GROVE

"In the fall of 1866, a church was organized at Lively Grove, of which the constituent members, James R. Laney, A. J. Laney, W. R. Land, F. M. Land, Mary A. Laney, Margaret A. Laney, Nancy Laney, Sarah Land, and Susan Land had been members of the Elkton Church. The Council organizing this church consisted of Elders John H. Spaldin, Joseph Gaskill and W. H. Hutchings. They have had as pastor: Elders A. J. Stevenson, David Huggins, W. S. Gee and J. C. Wilson. They erected a church house in the fall of 1873. Present membership 49."

Mrs. Charles Rezba gave this information, "The first Baptist Church of Elkton was west of Lively Grove. It was a brick building. In 1864 the Nine Mile Baptist Association held an Associational Meeting at the Elkton Baptist Church. The Moderator was W. W. Hutchings, the Clerk was A. Rice and the Minister was D. Huggins. There were 767 members of the Association present at this meeting."

Mr. Dalton Rohde, Sr. was clerk when the Missionary Baptist Organization at Elkton was disbanded and the records are in the possession of Mrs. Rohde and Miss Elizabeth who shared this information:

The BOOK OF RECORDS for the LIVELY GROVE CHURCH begins with Dec. 1874 with a membership of 70 members.

With W. S. Gee, Moderator

A. Zwahlen, Church Clerk

It seemed that the congregation met at a stated time on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath each month. After a worship service, a business meeting was held. In March 1876 they voted to call

Elder David Huggins as pastor.

It seemed that many people of the Baptist faith were moving from Lively Grove 1878-1881. The records stop in 1881.

On March 17, 1889, the Elkton Baptist Church was organized. A.J. Laney, Nancy Laney, James Laney, Matilda Laney, Elizabeth Rohde, George Osborne, Nancy Osborne, Libbie Wheelles, Manerva Stann and George Hamilton from the Lively Grove Church were constituent members. At the close of Revival Meetings conducted by Elder B.T. Rodman, a Missionary of the Nine Mile Baptist Association, the following were baptized and became members: Oscar Wheelles, Thomas Dahncke, August F. Rohde, Charles Rountree, Jona Laney, Mary Laney, Ellen Laney, Kate Rountree and Jane Harland.

They adopted the Church Covenant, Articles of Faith, given by Edward F. Hiscox in Baptist Church Directory commonly known as the New Hampshire Confession of Faith. The Council approved membership in the Nine Mile Association.

Following Elder Rodman, Elder W.H. Carner, Brother Harris, Brother Wise, Alex Rhine, Rev. Hodge, followed; each serving short terms until 1903.

On June 14, 1910 the church was again reorganized and Brother Keene held a Revival. About nineteen were received into the church by baptism and nine by letter.

From time to time revivals were held, always with the addition of many members. Some of the last pastors were Brother Rury, Brother Bullar, Pastor Moehler, Brother Kelly, Brother Wreath and Brother Allen.

In February 1918 a Sabbath School was organized with Miss Clara Fox as Supt., Asst. Supt. Eb Duguid, Cor. Sec. Hetta Henderson and Treas. Gretta Henderson.

The last minutes were recorded in 1935.

Since the reorganization in 1889, the meetings were held in the Elkton Union Church.

Mr. John Reinhardt gave this information about the Elkton Churches:

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first church of Elkton was erected on a tract of land formerly owned by C.W. Rohde, now owned by Arson Fuqua, just one block north of the present church. (Mr. and Mrs. Philip Keuter belonged to this church.) Henry Dunkhorst and Henry Stieg were trustees of this church in 1883 but they had no pastor. The church was disbanded.

ELKTON UNION CHURCH

In 1873 a band of Christian people united together for the purpose of erecting a new church.

Miss Rohde has the ORIGINAL CONTRACT or ARTICLES OF SUBSCRIPTION which set forth in detail the purpose and conditions of the contract. She also has a small brown record book in connection with the building of the church.

The purpose was to "organize ourselves into a congregation for the purpose of erecting a church edifice in the Town of Elkton" under certain conditions and "do appoint the following persons, to wit: James J. Trout, Linville R. Kinyon and C.N. Hawkins as a committee to solicit subscriptions for and as a Building Committee to supervise the building of the church edifice in said town of Elkton, said church edifice to be known and called by the name of the Elkton Union Church". These men were to serve as Trustees until an election, to be held on the first Saturday of October 1894.

It further stated that the trustees "shall give preference to the Episcopal Methodist Denomination, permitting all other denominations to hold church therein only when not in use by said Episcopal Methodists."

The Contract or Articles of Subscription was recorded Oct. 5, 1874 in Book 1-p. 235 & 236. 174 subscribers were listed. The records also give the list of workmen who built the church, including the number of days each man worked at \$ 2.50 per day.

At a meeting on Nov. 28, 1873, the trustees "agreed to go on buy lumber and seat the church by Dec. 28, 1873. C.W. Hawkins was to make the seats. Jan. 23rd, 1875 Trustees agreed to have the church dedicated on Saturday before the 4th Sabbath of next month."

The last Trustees in office were Arthur Shubert, Charles Rezba and John Reinhardt.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

In the year 1904, Rev. John Gaebe organized an Evangelical Congregation, to hold their services in the Elkton Union Church. Some of the pastors who served this congregation were Rev. Gaebe, Rev. Brink, Rev. Stotlar, Rev. Westerbeck, Rev. Langer haus and Rev. Bock. Students Albert Gaebe and Otto Heggemeier also served a short time. These ministers held two charges, serving either the Cordes or Addieville Congregations along with the Elkton Church. The congregation was disbanded in 1921.

After the two denominations had disbanded Rev. C.A. Marquant of Hahlen Lutheran Church conducted services for about two years, twice a month on Sunday evenings.

The Union Sunday School has continued from the beginning of the church through the present time. A Baptist S.S. was in session during the years they were active. They also held B.Y.P.U. Meetings.

P resently 1969 and for several years, John Reinhardt had charge. The doors are always open. Everyone is welcome to come and worship regardless of creed or doctrine. Every Sunday morning S.S. is held at 10:00 A.M. with Worship Service at 10:50 A.M.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bearing his sheaves with him. Ps. 126:5,6